

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 25, 1875, with transcript

Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., Canada. Home, April 25th, 75. (Prof. A. Graham Bell, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U.S.) My dear Aleck,

It was a relief to get your letter yesterday, and to find that at least you were not quite laid up, for in the last before that, you were but just out of the Drs. hands. How thankful we shall be when the matter in hand is all settled, and we trust that the anticipated success may repay you for all the anxiety, labour and expense you have been subjected to. All we fear is that you will bring yourself into a state of permanent ill-health. Remember that no earthly advantage can be a sufficient reason, nor an excuse for that. Remember too, that you are the one prop of our life now. We had much rather you would marry a woman than science. We have not heard again from Edinburgh, but most likely shall do so by the next English Post. I send you your Uncle James' letter and also the two from Mary. That long one of mine, which I before wrote of, I afterwards burnt, as I had sent the heads of it already. In your Uncle's description of his first attack, it was the fact of his speech being affected, that alarmed us, other causes might have produced the sensation of numbness in the limbs. I have often had a similar feeling in my left arm caused by an accumulation of flatulence from indigestion. But for his girls, I am sure your Uncle would rather have departed, than staid in this world. I do not understand such a state of mind myself, for I feel it to be a great privilege to live. He lived in constant preparation for the change and whether in a state of consciousness now or not, his future life is safe, with him by whom it was redeemed from the second death.

I trust and pray that you and I, and all of us, may be as safe. There are but few so good men as he was in truth and uprightness. Uncle and Aunt are here today, and send their love to you. They have hired another house whilst their own is building. Papa has had

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a gate made, opening from our ground to the wood, and he has cleared a path through it. Cutting down the trees upon the dale portion, has opened up the view over the river beautifully.

Carrie and George were here at tea this Afternoon. She is looking very well, and told me to give her love to you. Pollie has been placed with a person at Newport, known to Mr. Banks. Dr. Carson spoke to Papa doubtingly as to the probability of her getting over her accouchment. We all feel quite disgusted with her, her whole bearing has been that of shameless indifference to her situation. It will be a month before we can get a reply from Mary, with regard to their coming out. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Thompson and Mr. MacDougal will, we are sure, render the girls every possible assistance. You may yet get Mary for an assistant. We have offered for Susan to accompany 3 of them, but we fear her Mother will be a hindrance to leaving Scotland. At present I have no servant at all. Papa has given one Lecture at the Ladies' College, and continues them twice a week, till the series is complete. If you see Miss Fuller, give our kind love and say I will write to her soon. Papa unites with me in love and earnest cautions, and that God may guide you aright, is the earnest prayer of,

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell.